

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRETOR 04409 01 OF 02 290017Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----093114 290022Z /73

R 282305Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8605
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PRETORIA 4409

EXDIS

FROM YOUNG AND MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, ZA, US
SUBJECT: YOUNG MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA

REF: LUSAKA 2577

1. YOUNG, MOOSE AND LOW SAW PRESIDENT KAUNDA FOR TWENTY MINUTES SUNDAY AFTERNOON. YOUNG TOLD KAUNDA THAT WE WANTED TO FOLLOW UP HIS CONVERSATION LAST NIGHT WITH LOW TO SEE WHETHER HE HAD ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS ON THE MATTER DISCUSSED. WE HAD HEARD FROM THE US AND UK AMBASSADORS IN DAR, THAT NYERERE STILL HAD QUESTIONS ABOUT THE RHODESIAN DEFENSE FORCE AND PUBLICATION OF THE PROPOSAL.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PRETOR 04409 01 OF 02 290017Z

2. YOUNG REVIEWED OUR MORNING'S MEETING WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT SAYING THEY SEEMED TO BE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE FRONT, THE COMMANDERS OF THE RHODESIA DEFENSE FORCE, UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND RESIDENT COMMIS- SIONER THOUGH THEY HAD GIVEN NO COMMITMENT TO THIS EFFECT.

3. YOUNG THEN DESCRIBED IN SOME DETAIL OUR CONCERNS OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF SMITH GOING FOR AN INTERNAL OPTION. HE EXPLAINED THE DIFFICULTY WE WOULD HAVE IN EFFECTIVELY OPPOSING IT AND STRESSED OUR VIEW OF ITS CONSEQUENCES IN TERMS OF DESTRUCTION AND INTERNATIONALIZATION OF THE CONFLICT.

4. YOUNG EXPLAINED THAT OWEN HAD TRIED TO AVOID USE OF THE TERM "DISBANDMENT OF THE SMITH ARMIES" BECAUSE OF HIS CONCERN NOT TO DO ANYTHING THAT WOULD UPSET THE POSSIBILITY OF ACCEPTANCE OF THE PLAN IN SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA. HE FELT OWEN MAY HAVE BENT OVER BACKWARDS IN HIS EFFORT TO SAY THE SAME THING IN BOTH LUSAKA AND SALISBURY. WE AGAIN REVIEWED OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE ARMIES ISSUE; GRADUAL DISAPPEARANCE OF RDF DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD, BUILDING UP OF THE NEW ZIMBABWE NATIONAL ARMY (ZNA) BASED ON THE LIBERATION FORCES WITH ELEMENTS FROM THE RDF AND CREATION OF A SINGLE ARMY ACCEPTABLE TO THE NEWLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING PROVISION FOR THEIR APPOINTMENT OF ITS SENIOR OFFICERS. WE EXPLAINED THAT THE PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD BE PUBLISHED WOULD CONTAIN ONLY A VAGUE REFERENCE TO THIS MATTER, STATING THAT A NEW ARMY WOULD BE CREATED WHICH WOULD BE THE ARMY OF THE INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE. LOW RECALLED FOR KAUNDA THAT THE SPECIFIC ASSURANCES THAT THE RDF WOULD GRADUALLY BE PHASED OUT AND THE NEW ARMY BE BASED ON THE LIBERATION FORCES AND ACCEPTABLE TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT, WERE CONTAINED IN THE CALLAHAN LETTER.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PRETOR 04409 01 OF 02 290017Z

5. KAUNDA LISTENED TO OUR PRESENTATION. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN REASSURED THE NIGHT BEFORE ON THE SUBJECT AND AGAIN ACCEPTED OUR PRESENTATION.

6. ON PUBLICATION OF THE PROPOSAL, KAUNDA EXPLAINED THAT HIS EARLIER CONCERN GREW OUT OF MISGIVINGS ABOUT PUBLISHING IT BEFORE THE "ALLIES", THAT IS, THE US, UK, FRONT LINE AND PATRIOTIC FRONT WERE IN AGREEMENT. BUT HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD WE HAD A DIFFICULT TASK AND WOULD HAVE TO DO IT OUR OWN WAY. HE SAID HE WAS ANXIOUS AND WANTED TO BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT THE ELECTIONS WOULD BE FREE ELECTIONS. HE WAS NOT COMPLETELY SURE OF THAT FROM HIS UNDERSTANDING OF OUR PROPOSAL ABOUT THIS. HE SUPPORTED THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IN PROSECUTION OF THE WAR EFFORT, BUT HE WOULD NOT BE A PARTY TO IMPOSING ANY GROUP AS THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PRETORIA 4409

EXDIS

FROM YOUNG AND MOOSE

7. AFTER WE HAD GOTTEN INTO OUR CAR TO LEAVE, KAUNDA CAME TO THE FRONT DOOR OF STATE HOUSE AND CALLED US BACK. HE SUGGESTED THAT WE EXPRESS OUR VIEWS ON THE DANGERS OF AN INTERNAL OPTION AS FORCEFULLY AS POSSIBLE IN PRETORIA AND IN SALISBURY. WE ASSURED HIM THAT WE INTENDED TO DO SO.

8. YOUNG ASKED WHETHER HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL FOR US TO TRY TO ENLIST MALAWI PRESIDENT BANDA AS SITHOLE'S CHIEF SUPPORTER IN THE EFFORT TO DISCOURAGE AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. KAUNDA SAID THAT BANDA (HE REFERRED TO "THAT MAN", NEVER MENTIONING HIS NAME) HAD SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH MOZAMBIQUE. HE HAD ASKED ZAMBIA'S HELP WITH MOZAMBIQUE AND IN GETTING IN DOUTH AFRICAN AND RHODESIAN GOODS CONTRARY TO THE EMBARGO.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PRETOR 04409 02 OF 02 290023Z

KAUNDA HAD REFUSED. HE ADVISED AGAINST AN APPROACH WHICH HE THOUGH WOULD ALLOW BANDA TO INVOLVE US IN HIS PROBLEMS WITH HIS NEIGHBORS--TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS.

9. COMMENT: KAUNDA DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH NYERERE SINCE OUR AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATIONS WITH THE

TWO OF THEM. HE DID NOT APPEAR CONCERNED THAT NYERERE HAD NOT ACCEPTED OUR EXPLANATION. HE HAS NOT EXPRESSED CONCERN TO US EITHER OVER INCLUDING ELEMENTS OF THE RDF IN THE ZIMBABWE NATIONAL ARMY, OR OVER THE RDF'S CONTINUED EXISTENCE DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD AND WE HAVE CERTAINLY TWICE MADE CLEAR THAT BOTH OF THESE ARE CONTEMPLATED. IT IS NOT CHARACTERISTIC OF KAUNDA TO INVOLVE HIMSELF IN THIS DEGREE OF DETAIL AS NYERERE DOES. KAUNDA GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE ACCEPTS US AND OUR PROPOSAL AS PART OF THE JOINT EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM, AND THAT HE GENUINELY HOPED FOR OUR SUCCESS.

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